IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automating trading strategies on a distributed financial computer network, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network pursuant to a trading strategy, said data stream corresponding to real-time market conditions on said distributed financial computer network;

applying said trading strategy to said data stream of real-time market data, said trading strategy including at least one market trigger condition; ~~and~~

upon occurrence of one said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an entry ~~or exit~~ order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy; and

upon occurrence of another said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an exit order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said entry order or said exit order is an order selected from the group consisting of: securities orders, stock orders, option orders, index orders, commodity orders and futures orders.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said distributed financial computer network is the Internet.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said trading strategy is written in a substantially English language format.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising, after said step of automatically generating said entry order or exit order, the step of:

monitoring said market data over said distributed financial computer network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising, after said step of automatically generating said entry order or exit order, the step of:

modifying said trading strategy.

9-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising, after the step of automatically generating said entry order or exit order, the step of:

queuing said entry order or exit order on an order queue.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

checking said order queue for multiple instances of said entry order or exit order.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one conflicting entry order or exit order in said order queue;

warning a user of said at least one conflicting entry order or exit order; and

requesting said user to exit said at least one conflicting entry order or exit order.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said entry order or exit order is sent over said distributed financial computer network to be filled by a securities market.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring said entry order or exit order over said distributed financial computer network while said entry or exit order is not yet filled;

automatically generating warnings that said securities markets have not yet filled said entry order or exit order; and

automatically generating warnings that said entry order or exit order is only partially filled.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring said trading strategy while said entry order or exit order is not yet filled;

automatically canceling said entry orders or exit orders based upon the status of said trading strategy; and

automatically removing said entry orders or exit orders based upon the status of said trading strategy.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method of automating trading strategies an a distributed financial computer network, further comprises the method of evaluating said trading strategies on said distributed financial computer network, said method of evaluating said trading strategies comprising the steps of:

storing a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network of a given prior period, said data stream corresponding to market conditions on said distributed financial computer network over said given prior period; and

testing a trading strategy using said data stream over said given prior period, whereby the historical success or failure of said trading strategy may be analyzed.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said trading strategy is written in a substantially English language format.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said trading strategy is applied to real-time data streams and set to automatically generate entry orders or exit orders.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said entry order or exit order is an order selected from the group consisting of securities orders, stock orders, option orders, index orders, commodity orders and futures orders.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said distributed financial computer network is the Internet.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said given prior period is a variable length of time chosen by a user of the invention.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of testing a trading strategy further comprises the step of comparing entry orders or exit orders generated by the strategy to said data stream of market data.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein said step of testing a trading strategy further comprises the step of alerting said user of the success or failure of said testing.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein said step of testing a trading strategy further comprises the step of displaying the results of said testing on a chart.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said market conditions are comprised of historical market prices.

35. (Currently Amended) In a distributed financial computer network, a system for automating trading strategies, said system for automating trading strategies comprising:

at least one source of market data,

at least one routing device for receiving said market data and dispersing said market data as at least one data stream; and

at least one device for receiving said at least one data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network pursuant to a trading strategy, said device comprising:

processor means for monitoring said at least one data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network pursuant to a trading strategy, said at least one data stream corresponding to real time market conditions on said distributed financial computer network;

~~a second~~ said processor means including means for applying said trading strategy to said at least one data stream of real-time market data, said trading strategy including at least one market trigger condition; ~~and~~

~~a third~~ said processor means including means for, upon occurrence of one said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an entry ~~or exit~~ order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy; and

said processor means including means for, upon occurrence of another said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an exit order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy.

36. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said entry order or exit order is an order selected from the group consisting of: securities orders, stock orders, option orders, index orders, commodity orders and futures orders.

37. (Original) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said trading strategy is written in a substantially English language format.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said means of automatically generating said entry order or exit order further comprises:

monitoring means for monitoring said market data over said distributed financial computer network.

41. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said means of automatically generating said entry order or exit order further comprises:

modifying means for modifying said trading strategy.

42-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said means of automatically generating said entry order or exit order further comprises:

means for queuing said entry order or exit order on an order queue.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 47, further comprising:

means for checking said order queue for multiple instances of said entry orders or exit orders.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 47, further comprising:

identifying means for identifying at least one conflicting entry order or exit order in said order queue;

warning means for warning a user of said at least one conflicting entry order or exit order; and

requesting means for requesting said user to exit said at least one conflicting entry order or exit order.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 35, wherein said entry order or exit order is sent over said distributed financial computer network to be filled by a securities market.

55. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 54, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring said entry order or exit order over said distributed financial computer network while said entry or exit order is not yet filled;

warning means for automatically generating warnings that said securities markets have not yet filled said entry order or exit order; and

warning means for automatically generating warnings that said entry order or exit order is only partially filled.

56. (Currently Amended) The automating trading strategies system according to claim 54, further comprising:

monitoring means for monitoring said trading strategy while said entry order or exit order is not yet filled;

canceling means for automatically canceling said entry orders or exit orders based upon the status of said trading strategy; and

removing means for automatically removing said entry order or exit order based upon the status of said trading strategy.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein said automating trading strategies system, further comprises a back testing system of evaluating said trading strategies on said distributed financial computer network, said back testing system comprising:

at least one source of market data,

at least one routing device for receiving said market data and dispersing said market data as at least one data stream; and

at least one device for receiving said at least one data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network of a given prior period, said at least one receiving device comprising:

a processor means for storing said at least one data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network of a given prior period, said at least one data stream corresponding to market conditions on said distributed financial computer network over said given prior period; and

a second processor means for testing a trading strategy using said data stream over said given prior period, whereby the historical success or failure of said trading strategy may be analyzed.

59. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein said trading strategy is written in a substantially English language format.

60. (Currently Amended) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein said trading strategy may be applied to real-time data streams and set to automatically generate entry orders and exit orders.

61. (Currently Amended) The back testing system according to claim ~~58~~ 60, wherein said entry order or exit order is an order selected from the group consisting of: securities orders, stock orders, option orders, index orders, commodity orders and futures orders.

62. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein said distributed financial computer network is the Internet.

63. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein said given prior period is a variable length of time chosen by a user of the invention.

64. (Currently Amended) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein second processor means of testing a trading strategy further comprises:

comparing means for comparing entry orders or exit orders generated by said trading strategy to said data stream of market data.

65. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein second processor means of testing a trading strategy further comprises:

alerting means for alerting said user of the success or failure of said testing.

66. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein second processor means of testing a trading strategy further comprises:

displaying means for displaying the results of said testing on a chart.

67. (Original) The back testing system according to claim 58, wherein said market conditions are comprised of historical market prices selected from the group consisting of: securities prices, stock prices, option prices, index prices, commodities prices and futures prices.

68. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied thereon for causing the automation of trading strategies, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

(a) computer readable program code means for causing a computer to monitor a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network pursuant to a trading strategy, said data stream corresponding to real time market conditions on said distributed financial computer network;

(b) computer readable program code means for causing the computer to apply said trading strategy to said data stream of real-time market data, said trading strategy including at least one market trigger condition; ~~and~~

(c) computer readable program code means for causing the computer, ~~to~~ upon occurrence of one said at least one market trigger condition, to automatically generate an entry ~~or exit~~ order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy; and

(d) computer readable program code means for causing the computer, upon occurrence of another said at least one market trigger condition, to automatically generate an exit order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy.

69. (Original) The article of manufacture according to claim 68, further comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied thereon for causing the automation of back testing trading strategies, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture further comprising:

(a) computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network of a given prior period, said data stream corresponding to market conditions on said distributed financial computer network over said given prior period; and

(b) computer readable program code means for causing a computer to test a trading strategy using said data stream over said given prior period, whereby the historical success or failure of said trading strategy may be analyzed.

70. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture according to claim 68, wherein said entry order or exit order is an order selected from the group consisting of: securities orders, stock orders, option orders, index orders, commodity orders and futures orders.

71. (Currently Amended) A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a data processing system connected to a distributed financial computer network, comprising:

a means for monitoring a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network pursuant to a trading strategy, said data stream corresponding to real time market conditions on said distributed financial computer network;

means for applying said trading strategy to said data stream of real-time market data, said trading strategy including at least one market trigger condition; ~~and~~

means for, upon occurrence of one said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an entry ~~or exit~~ order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy; and

means for, upon occurrence of another said at least one market trigger condition, automatically generating an exit order over said distributed financial computer network pursuant to said trading strategy.

72. (Original) The memory according to claim 71, wherein said means of automating trading strategies on a distributed financial computer network further comprises the means of evaluating said trading strategies on said distributed financial computer network, said evaluating means comprising:

a means for storing a data stream of real-time market data from said distributed financial computer network of a given prior period, said data stream corresponding to market conditions on said distributed financial computer network over said given prior period; and

a means for testing a trading strategy using said data stream over said given prior period, whereby the historical success or failure of said trading strategy may be analyzed.